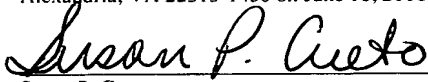


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Susan P. Cueto

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Inventor: Dietmar Neuhaus

Serial No. TBA

Filed: June 16, 2006

For: VALVE

Examiner: TBA

Group Art Unit: TBA

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to its examination on the merits, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows: